

SOUTH SUDAN

STRATEGIC FOCUS

South Sudan is striving to implement the 2018 peace deal addressing the 2013 and 2016 internal conflicts that devastated a country already suffering from the long struggle for independence. Floods, drought, and intra and inter-clan fighting have created displacements and famine. National health outcomes are among the worst globally, with the HIV response lagging more than a decade behind neighboring countries.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborates closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH), South Sudan AIDS Commission, Global Fund, and other key partners to strengthen the health system by providing resources and technical assistance in HIV/TB treatment, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), HIV prevention, laboratory capacity, blood safety, strategic information, epidemic response and human resources for health development.

Essential Health Services: Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), CDC supports HIV prevention and treatment services in the highest prevalence areas of South Sudan, focusing on increasing access to quality HIV services through mentorship and supportive supervision at 64 antiretroviral therapy (ART) sites. CDC supports the largest PEPFAR direct service delivery partner to enable the MOH to achieve the Global UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets.

Health Systems Strengthening: CDC provides extensive assistance to the MOH to strengthen the health system, including operationalizing the National Public Health Laboratory quality assurance and accreditation programs, developing guidelines and standard operating procedures for quality HIV service delivery, improving health information management systems, and supporting national priority HIV surveillance and surveys. CDC support to MOH established systems to respond to epidemics such as Ebola and COVID-19.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV Testing and ART Services: CDC's implementing partners provide HIV testing and ART services across the three greater equatorial regions and Lakes State. PEPFAR performance data for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 indicates that CDC implementing partners conducted 283,967 HIV tests identifying 7,736 (2.7 percent) persons with HIV infection. CDC implementing partners supported 30,106 people on ART, accounting for 63 percent of people on ART nationally, and provided the MOH with critical support to expand in-country viral load (VL) testing for those on ART.

TB/HIV: TB is the leading cause of mortality for people living with HIV (PLHIV). The CDC works with the national TB program and other stakeholders to improve collaboration between TB and HIV programs. In FY21, CDC partners screened all PLHIV on ART for TB at PEPFAR-supported facilities, and 98 percent of the 212 TB-positive cases identified received TB treatment.

Lab Strengthening: CDC invested 10 million US dollars over the past ten years to support national laboratory quality improvement activities, including accreditation, external quality assessments for HIV testing, early infant diagnosis (EID) and VL, National Laboratory guidelines, policies, and strategic plans; and laboratory information management systems. National HIV reference laboratory accreditation efforts started in FY2018, and in May 2022, the Kenya Accreditation Services (KENAS) recommended accreditation for HIV EID and VL testing.

HIV Surveys: CDC supported six rounds of antenatal clinic (ANC) sentinel surveys between 2007-2021, providing important data for HIV estimates using the UNAIDS Spectrum Model. CDC also supported four bio-behavioral surveys of female sex workers in Juba (2016), Nimule (2017), Wau (2019), and Yambio (2019). The outcome data provided policymakers with information to steer programmatic efforts.

PEPFAR Five-Year Strategy: CDC leads the implementation of an interagency, five-year PEPFAR strategy targeting programs in high HIV prevalence areas with partner geographic rationalization, improving HIV services through intensive site mentorship, focusing efforts on HIV case identification, ensuring safe and life-saving ART for PLHIV, and improving data quality and engaging civil society and community volunteers. The strategy aims to strengthen national ownership of the HIV response activities and leverage PEPFAR resources to improve the overall laboratory and strategic information systems.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Salva Kiir Mayardit

Minister of Health:
Hon. Yolanda Awel Juach

U.S. Charge' D' Affairs:
William Flens

CDC/DGHT Director:
Sudhir Bunga

Country Quick Facts
(worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)

Per Capita GNI:
\$460 (2018)

Population (million):
11.38 (National Bureau of Statistics Projection 2021)

Under 5 Mortality:
97.9/1,000 live births (2020)

Life Expectancy:
58 years (2020)

UNAIDS 2021 Spectrum Estimates

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 2.1% (2021)

Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): 6,200 (2021)

Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: 110,000 (2021)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 45,263 (2021)

Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic
(who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)

Estimated TB Incidence: 232/100,000 population (2020)

TB patients with known HIV status who are HIV positive: 12% (2020)

TB Treatment Success Rate: 85% (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 10

Locally Employed Staff: 8
Direct Hires: 2
Fellows & Contractors: 0

Our success is built on the backbone of science and strong partnerships.

September 2022 | The CDC Division of Global HIV & TB activities are implemented as part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); non-HIV related TB activities are supported by non-PEPFAR funding

